

Newtown Public Library
Library Director's Report for July & August 2020
September 17, 2020

Statistics:

The library building continued to be closed through the summer months but staff were hard at work providing contactless pick-up for patrons. Our circulation in July (3,133 items) and August (3,505 items), though nearly a third of what the library would normally circulate during these months, was still very encouraging. Our patrons have really embraced this service.

Our circulation of digital magazines through DCL's RBDigital in July and August held steady at around 93 check-outs each month. The circulation of eBooks and eAudiobooks through Overdrive has increased in July (1,460 items) and August (1,537 items). Our circulation in August is nearly double of what it was in February (799 items).

Youth Services Update

From Angela Hegadorn, Youth Services Librarian:

"We enjoyed many fun virtual events in July and August, and two passive programs for families. We've used the Zoom platform all summer, which allows families to interact with us and each other. It was wonderful to see families greeting each other and talking at our weekly programs. Although our attendance numbers are smaller, our impact on those who have attended has been positive, and much appreciated. We have also continued our Take Home craft bags, and handed out **175** bags in these months. In September, we will offer pre-recorded story times on Facebook, so families can watch when they are able.

In July, we offered a Treasure Hunt, in which families received a treasure map with clues to treasure boxes hidden in different township parks. In August, we celebrated Shark Week with a game of Shark Hide and Seek. Families were given clues to find a shark (Miss Ava in costume) hidden in Newtown Square. Both programs were popular, and we hope to offer more like it this fall.

Our SummerQuest Reading and Learning Challenge finished at the end of August. This was the first year all DCLS libraries used the Beanstack platform to log books and completed learning challenges. We had **65** children read **793** books! Our Grand Prize winners received a three-month subscription to KiwiCo. They offer month activity crates sent to your home.

Total attendance for July and August was **248** patrons."

Upcoming Events:

Our book club discussions, which did not miss a meeting during the pandemic, continues online. The books chosen for the discussion have been selected from Hoopla so that multiple copies can be checked out at once. The book club will likely to continue meeting through Zoom until at least the end of the year.

Our YS department continues to offer online programs and grab and go crafting bags for children.

Friends of the Library Update

The Friends of the Library have not met since the last report and do not have any events planned at this time. We are working on offering a pop-up cart sale on nice days this fall at the contactless pickup station.

Miscellaneous

A survey was created in early September to get feedback on the contactless pickup program. As results come in, they will be shared.

We have begun offering pop-up browsing on nice weather days that feature about a dozen new books for patrons to browse when they pick up their requests at the contactless pick-up area. It has been rainy lately but once we have nicer weather, we will make sure to push the display outside for patrons to peruse more often.

The self-check station has been installed and is ready for use when the library reopens. We are still waiting on the credit card module to arrive but it will be straight forward to implement when it is received.

Arlene has been talking with the Township Public Works department to design better Plexiglas barriers at the main service desk. Although we have purchased a few that initially seemed sufficient, Arlene feels that we could do better. The guards we have purchased can be used at the public computer terminals or elsewhere in the library.

Arlene continues to work on the 2021 budget with the understanding that funding will be, at best, flat in the coming year. It's a challenging time to predict how things will be in the coming year. A budget draft will be available soon.

Arlene is working on the Constant Contact newsletter with interested staff members who also have the ability to work with the software. Creating the newsletter is time consuming and is a job for more than one person. Hopefully, we can coordinate our efforts and get a newsletter prepared and sent out before the next board meeting and on a regular basis thereafter.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Caruso

Director, Newtown Public Library